JETS COMICS

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

vol. 1



ローマ帝国第5代皇帝ネロ

登場人物

セスタス：ローマ帝国の最下層階級の拳奴の集まり、ヴァレンス奴隷闘士養成所に身を置く少年。生き延びるために闘いを余儀なくされる。

ザファル：ヌミディア出身の拳奴。セスタスに拳闘の才能を見いだし、師として拳の技を教え込む。過去にデミトリアスと闘い膝が不自由に。

デミトリアス：ローマ帝国の勇者。別名アッティカの金獅子。過去にザファルと闘い右眼を失っている。

ルスカ：デミトリアスの息子、皇立徒手格闘兵団首席訓練生。ローマの格闘児の異名をとる。

ネロ：ローマ帝国第5代皇帝。17歳で即位の幼年皇帝。



WAZAKAI SHIZUYA

技来静也

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS セスタス vol.1 技来静也

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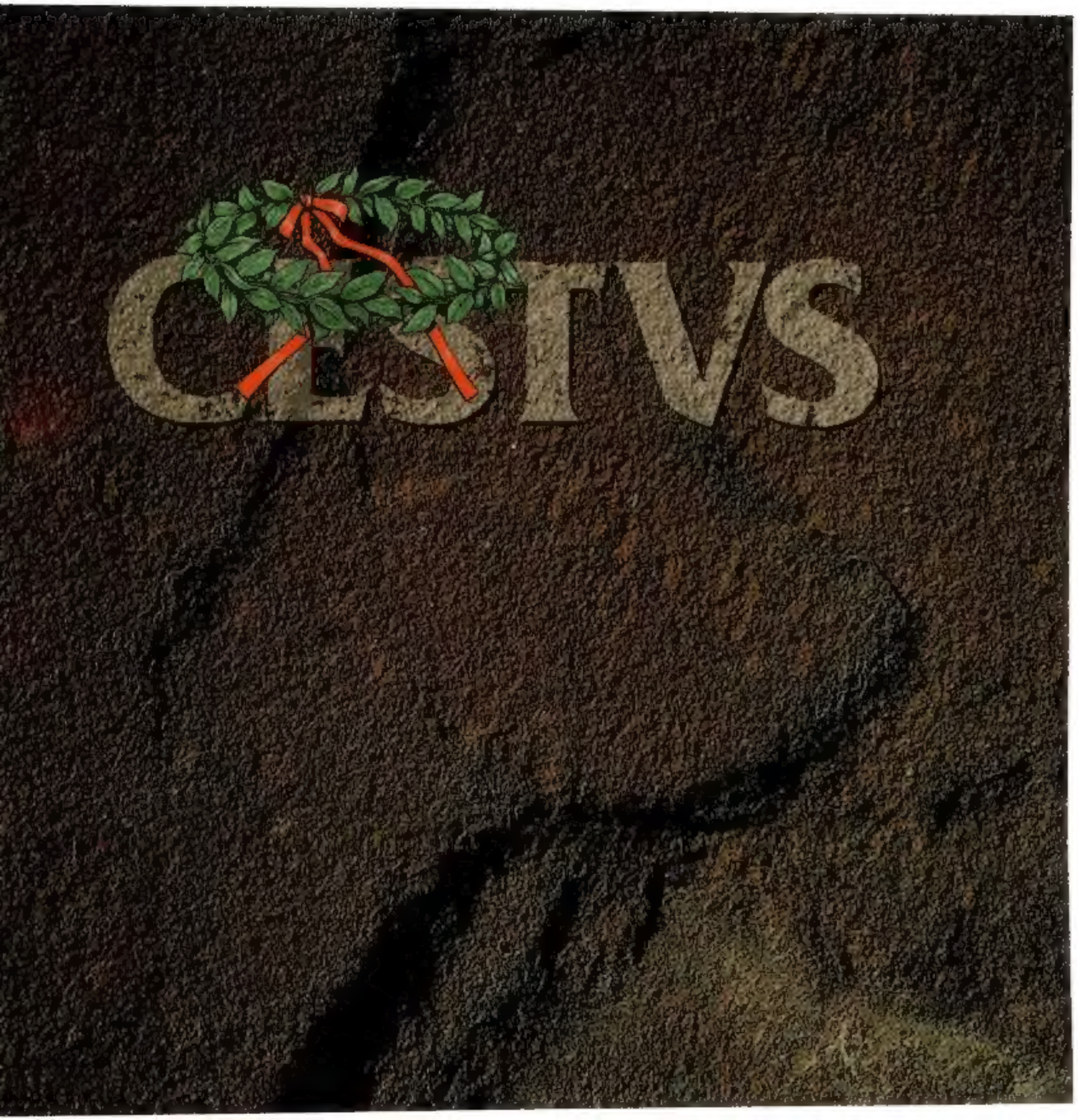
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技来静也の好評既刊

ブラス・ナックル◆全3巻

独立間も無いアメリカ西部を舞台に繰りひろげられるアクションとバイオレンス!! 銃と怪物、復讐と悲しみをのせた強烈なる物語!!

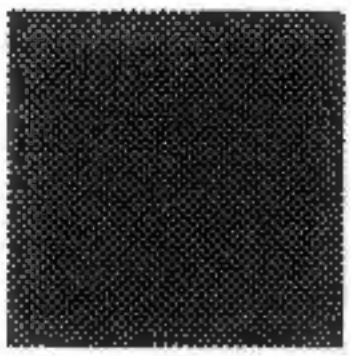
拳闘暗黒伝セスタス◆①～⑤巻

世界帝国となったローマを舞台に、拳奴（けんど）・セスタスの成長を通して自由を勝ち取る大切さを語るボクシング・アクション!!

YOUNG ヤングアニマル
ANIMAL
毎月第2・第4金曜日発売

JETS COMICS

YOUNG ANIMAL PRESENTS



HAKUSENSHA

JETS COMICS

拳闘暗黒伝セスタス❶



技来静也

拳闘暗黒伝 SESTUS セスタス

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JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などとは、いっさい無関係です。

WAS THE HAND.

THE FIRST WEAPON KNOWN TO MAN...

COMPETED WITH THE FIST.

SINCE THE TIME OF LEGENDS, HUMANITY HAS...

BOXING!

THE OLDEST MARTIAL ART.

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS
セストゥス

CHAPTER I: CESTVS THE SLAVE-BOXER

Amidst torrential rain, the fifth emperor of Rome was greeted by the gathered crowd.

Merely 17 years old, he was the youngest emperor in history.

This was the birth of the boy emperor.

Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, **Nero.**

13th October 54 AD.

Noon.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY!

LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!

Slave-Boxer Training School.

At the same time.

Outskirts of Rome.

Juvenile Quarters.

DAMN.

THESE FLIES ARE IRRITATING.

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH

SWISH


ADD
BZZ
BZZ BZZ
BZZ


AH, SORRY ROCCO...
WAS I A BIT OF AN EYESORE?


YOU'VE JUST BEEN STOOD THERE, DAZED, FOR A WHILE NOW.


OI.
WHAT'S UP CESTVS?


TODAY'S PRACTICE MAY BE SUSPENDED EH?
THIS RAIN MAKES ME NERVOUS.


THAT'D BE GOOD...

IT'S HERE, IT'S HERE!

AH. YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FLIES?

HUH?

THE FOOD'S HERE!

THIS IS...

BASTARD.

SHUT IT!

OI, GET OUT THE WAY!

THE FOOD SHOULD BE SHARED EVENLY...

GOT IT?

HOW MANY TIMES DO I NEED TO SAY THE SAME THING?

OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

PLEASE, FORGIVE US ROCCO...

G...

GOT IT!

I KNOW THAT BEING HUNGRY MAKES YOU ROWDIER.

BUT YOU LOT ARE THE ONLY ONES CAUSING A FUSS.

SURE

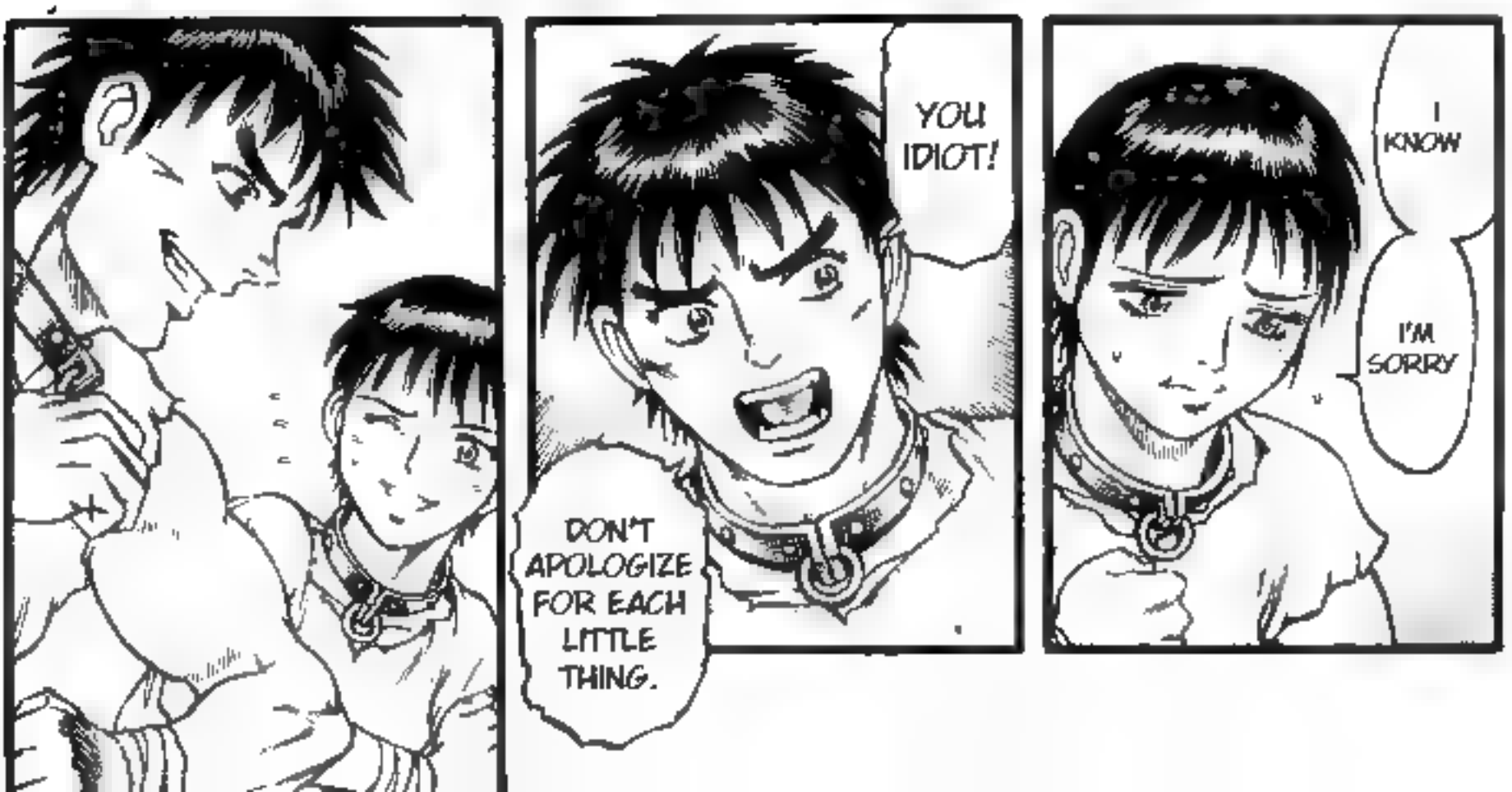
THERE'S A SPOT HERE.

COME ON CESTVS.


PROF


YOU'RE A GREAT GUY, ROCCO.


HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO ACT LIKE A CHILD?
JUST EAT UP, SILLY.
I'M SORRY, IGNORE WHAT I SAID.


YOU IDIOT!
DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR EACH LITTLE THING.
I KNOW
I'M SORRY

EVERYONE OUT!

THERE'S MORE SOLDIERS THAN USUAL

...

I'VE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS

WE'RE NOT TRAINING, ARE WE

YOU WILL BE FULLY EQUIPPED IN ORDER TO DO THESE MOCK FIGHTS.

FROM NOW ON WE SHALL SELECT A PARTNER FOR EACH OF YOU.

WITH THIS, WE SHALL HOLD AN EVENT TO DECIDE UPON THE FINAL SELECTION.

ONLY THOSE SLAVES WHO ARE VICTORIOUS WILL RECEIVE PATRONAGE.

GOT IT, YOU DAMN BRATS?

WE WILL START WITH YOU TWO!

ROCCO AND CESTVS!

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

WE'RE TO HAVE A MATCH?!

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

THOSE WHO DO NOT FIGHT TO THE FULLEST OF THEIR ABILITIES WILL BE ELIMINATED, UNDERSTOOD?

Y... YEAH...

COME AT ME WITH NO HESISTATION!

WE'VE NO CHOICE...

CESTVS.

HIS NAME IS ROCCO

YES, HIS COURAGE AND PHYSICAL STRENGTH MAKE HIM FIRST RATE GOODS.

OOH. WHAT A MARVELOUS PHYSIQUE.

HE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS KIDS.

GIVE ME YOUR HANDS.

MASTER ZAFAR!

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER CESTVS!

OKAY?

SIMPLY GO OUT THERE AND, WITHOUT BEING AFRAID, DO WHAT WE DID IN PRACTICE.

WELL, IT IS YOUR FIRST MATCH AFTER ALL.

HMM.

WHAT SHOULD I DO MASTER?

W...

ROCCO IS INSANELY STRONG IN FIGHTS...

CESTVS...

I TRAINED YOU FOR THESE SORT OF FIGHTS, DIDNT I?

ｵﾘｭｳ..ﾘｭ..

Ancient gladiators wore hardened leather gloves on their hands. These were reinforced with iron rivets.

Such gloves were known as the "Cestus".

SMACK

SMACK

SMACK

LET'S BEGIN!

For these ancient gladiators there were no weight classes, nor rounds.

They stood fully upright.

Their right fist a lance, their left a shield.

Nor was there a time limit. The match only came to an end when one person was knocked out.

Neither was there the concept of a points system.

WHAT AN ODD STANCE...

DON'T THINK BADLY OF ME FOR THIS.

CESTVS...

BUT YOU'RE A GLADIATOR TOO.

I DON'T WANT TO HIT YOU...

I WON'T HOLD BACK, IT'LL ONLY TAKE ONE BLOW!

EH?!

DRIP

DRIP

AH...

...!

WHAT THE...

HA...

AH...

UH...

I SHOULD'VE HIT HIM...

WHAT THE?! JUST NOW...

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

SHAKE.

DRIP

ITTA ITTA..

I...

BUT... B...

IF YOU GO EASY IT'D BE A SIGN OF DISRESPECT!

DON'T HESISTATE CESTVS!

IF HE WAS GOING EASY ON ME...

SAY WHAT?!

GRRR...

MAKE FUN OF ME WOULD YOU?!

END

WHY...

WE'RE FRIENDS, WHY DO WE HAVE TO FIGHT?!

NO! I...

I CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO HIM!

DON'T FLEE!

COME AT ME, CESTVS!

DO YOU THINK WE'RE PLAYING TAG?!

IF YOU DON'T KNOCK HIM DOWN, THEN THE MATCH WILL JUST KEEP ON GOING!

COME ON!

ROCCO...

I'M SORRY...



...!

HE WON'T GET UP...

DON'T GET UP AGAIN!

PLEASE ROCCO...

THEY WON'T MOVE!

MY LEGS...

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

I...

...

SO YOU'D BEEN TRICKING ME UP TILL NOW, YOU SLY BASTARD!

YOUR MOVEMENTS WERE SO FAST, I COULDN'T SEE A THING!

PFF

THAT...

THAT WAS AMAZING!

ROCCO

I'M SORRY, CAN YOU STAND YET?

AH.

WELL.

YOU IDIOT!

WHAT DID I SAY ABOUT APOLOGIZING!

EH?!

ROCCO!

CE...

ST...

WHY DID YOU DO THIS?!

WH... WHY?!

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP THIS IN MIND...

HMPH.

WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH!

AFTER ALL, WHEN IT COMES TO REPLACE-MENTS..

A BEATEN DOG IS OF NO USE TO US!

...

...

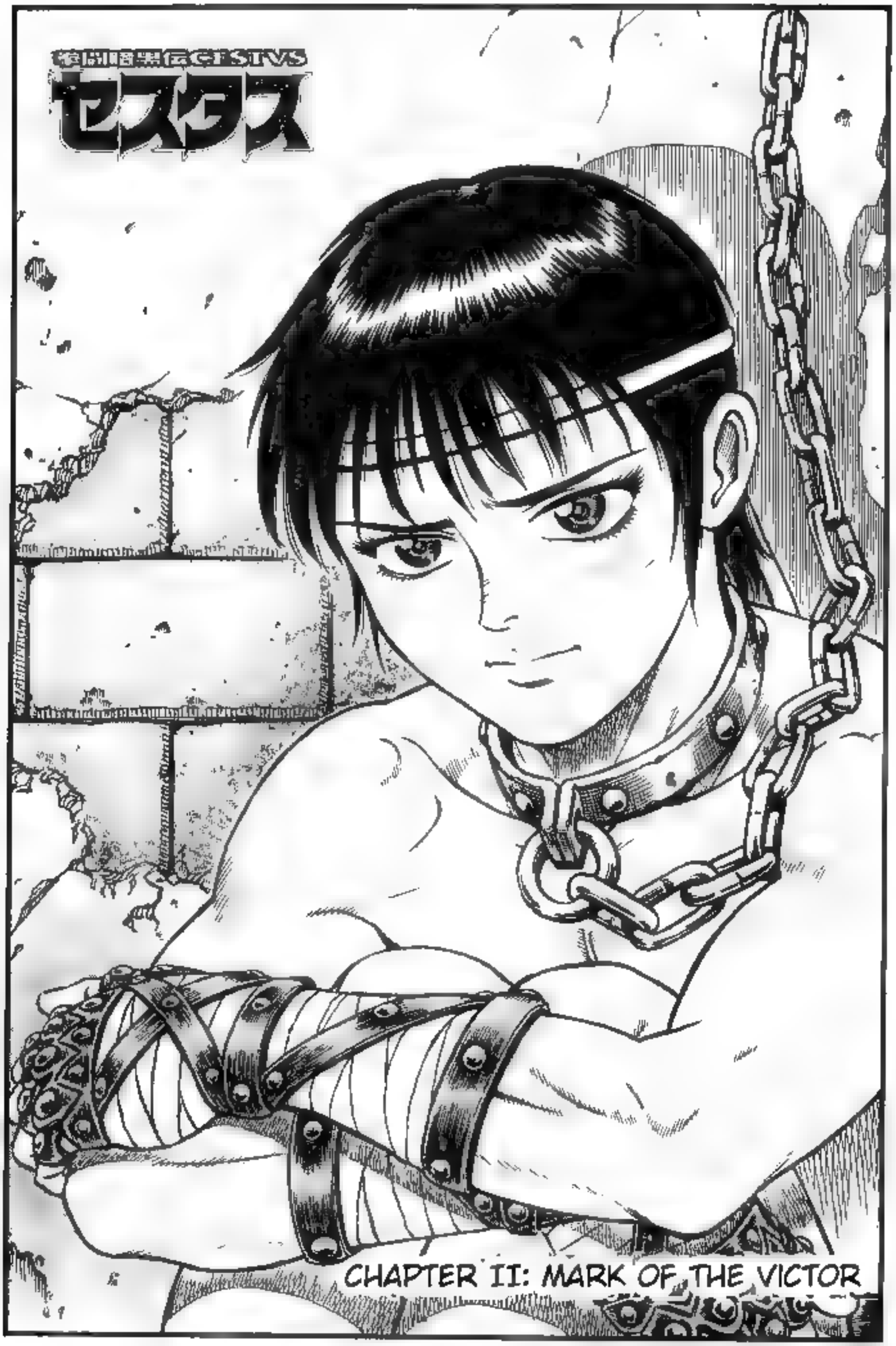
THAT IS THE FATE OF SLAVES LIKE YOU, KNOW IT WELL!

FOR THOSE WHO ARE DEFEATED, THERE IS NO TOMORROW!

The boy's name was Cestvs.

He was a slave-boxer, a member of the lowest social class, and a mere 15 years old.

CHAPTER I: CESTVS THE SLAVE-BOXER - END


聖闘士星矢 THE LOST CANVAS
セスタス
CHAPTER II: MARK OF THE VICTOR

LET'S PUT SOME EFFORT INTO THIS!

HAH.

HAH.

HAH.

DON'T RAISE YOUR CHIN UP, CESTVS!

HAH.

WE'LL GET ANOTHER LAP IN AFTER!

WE'VE STOPPED HAVING FIGHTS...

SINCE THAT DAY...

ROCCO...

YOU'RE TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER HALF OF OUR COMRADES...

ARE YOU IN HEAVEN RIGHT NOW...?

THE THOUGHT OF GETTING CLOSE TO SOMEONE NOW TERRIFIES ME!

AFTER ALL, I DON'T WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER FRIEND...

WHEN I COULD HAVE TO GO AND FIGHT THEM!

HHH

EO EO

AO

AARGH!

I... I DON'T WANT THIS!

NO NO, DON'T DO IT!

NEXT.

GYAAAAA!

I WON, WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?!

...!

IT IS EVIDENCE, THAT YOU ARE ALL NOW MY PROPERTY!

MY NAME IS JULIANUS VALENS.

THIS BRAND IS THE INITIAL LETTER OF MY OWN SURNAME.

WITH IT, YOU! HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BECOME SLAVE-BOXERS!

V

WHAT'S MORE, IT IS ALSO THE FIRST LETTER OF VICTORY!

FROM HERE ON YOU SHALL USE THOSE FISTS OF YOURS TO FIGHT FOR ME!

AND, YOU SHALL WIN FOR ME!

IF YOU CAN SCALE THE HEIGHTS AND ACHIEVE 100 WINS, I PROMISE I SHALL GRANT YOU FREEDOM.

I AM HOWEVER, A BENEVOLENT MAN.

AS WELL AS FULFILLING YOUR DESIRE FOR SOCIAL STATUS!

THUMP

I CAN'T EARN MY FREEDOM...

UNLESS I GAIN 100 WINS!

THUMP

SAY... 100...

HOW MUCH IS THAT?

100 WINS!

I COULD BE KILLED...

YET WITH EVEN ONE LOSS...

MASTER ZAFAR!

STILL MANAGED TO KEEP FIGHTING THROUGH, BUT HOW?!

IN THIS TERRIFYING WORLD IT'S SAID THAT YOU...

RIGHT.

HAH

R...

HAH

YOU'RE SLOW!

HAH

HAH

HAH

DON'T RUN FROM THESE ATTACKS!

RETURN THEM COMPLETELY!

STRIKE WITHIN THE CIRCLE, EVADE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE! YOUR FISTS ..

WILL ALWAYS REACH THEIR TARGET!

WITHOUT BEING HIT, STRIKE!

ATTACK AND DEFENCE FORM ONE WHOLE.

ZAFAR'S TEACHING THAT BRAT ACROBATICS, WHY FUCKING BOTHER.

HAH, LOOK AT THAT MIDGET THERE...

AAH... IT'S A NOVICE SLAVE-BOXER RIGHT...

TELL ME HOW PRACTICE LIKE THAT IS USEFUL?!

A BOXING MATCH IS JUST A FIST FIGHT.

WHAT'S MORE HE'S A FRAIL BOY, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE A SMITING BLOW, THEREFORE...

WE CAN'T HOPE TO BRING DOWN OPPONENTS IN ONE BLOW...

HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON HIS EVASIVE ABILITY, AS WELL AS LAUNCHING A BARRAGE OF ATTACKS.

A UNIQUE TALENT, HE'LL BRING A REVOLUTION TO THE BLOODY WORLD OF BOXING!

HE HAS A SHARP EYE, AND HIS SPEED CAN'T BE FAULTED.

FIFA

RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH.

THE PROBLEM THOUGH IS...

A MENTAL ONE..!

TAP

WITH A HAND STRIKE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DROP A STRONG OPPONENT.

YOUR LOWER BODY STRENGTH IS LACKING.

WATCH CLOSELY.

YOU SHOULD NOT RELY ON PHYSICAL STRENGTH ALONE WITH A STRIKE.

THE SOURCE OF A SMITING BLOW...

COMES FROM THE TIP OF YOUR TOES THROUGH YOUR KNEES.

WITH A HAND STRIKE...?

ROTATE YOUR HIPS...

TWIST YOUR SHOULDERS AND...

RELEASE YOUR FIST!

SPRING FROM BELOW THE KNEE...

CRACK

...

MASTER!

AH...

LOOK AT THAT.

OKAY.

AH...

REST YOUR BODY...

CESTVS.

THEY USED TO CALL HIM THE "RUTHLESS FIST OF NUMIDIA", HE WAS AN UNDEFEATED FIGHTER TOO.

WHAT A PITIFUL FIGURE.

BUT NOW HE'S NOT EVEN FIT ENOUGH TO BABYSIT SOME BRAT.

...!

KEEP ON WITH YOUR TRAINING.

YOUR MATCH IS NEAR...

THIS WON'T BE ANOTHER FAUX MATCH WITH YOUR COMRADES.

SETTLE DOWN.

A M... MATCH, THAT CAN'T BE!

THIS MATCH WILL BE HELD IN AN ARENA IN ROME.

IT IS TO BE HOSTED BY THE EMPEROR HIMSELF...

AND WILL BE HELD BETWEEN RIVAL TRAINING SCHOOLS.

AN ARENA!

FIGHT

YOU'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT AMONGST ADULTS!

YOU ARE NOW A FULL FLEDGED SLAVE-BOXER.

IT WILL BE YOUR FIRST TRUE FIGHT!

YOUR MATCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON A MASSIVE STAGE.

OH, THAT WOULD BE TRUE...

IS IT..

WELL..

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME OUTSIDE OF THE WALLS AFTER ALL.

EVEN AT SUCH A TIME, HIS CURIOSITY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM.

HE REALLY IS STILL A KID EH.

WHAT'S UP CESTVS?

The heart of the empire!

ROME...!

And...

Where a boy of the same generation as Cestvs was the ruling emperor.

CHAPTER II: "MARK OF THE VICTOR - END

FROM NOW ON...

I'LL DO MY BEST AND TRY TO FIGHT FOR ROCCO'S PART TOO.

MASTER...

AND ALSO...

LET OTHERS WORRY FOR THEM-SELVES.

WIN ON YOUR BEHALF.

IT'S TOO HEAVY A BURDEN FOR YOU TO BEAR.

AFTER ALL, THIS IS YOUR CRUSADE!

YOU SHOULD RAISE YOUR FIST ONLY FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, CESTVS!

学園暗黒伝CESTVS

セストゥス

CHAPTER III: THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL ROME

They were dizzied by...

The sheer brilliance of the city.

The boy slaves were enveloped by the overwhelming scenery.

And the hills...

On which stood shining white temples.

The crowd of ordered, multi-storied houses.

By the gigantic aqueducts.

Having conquered Brittania (present day England)...

The Roman empired had ushered in a golden age.

Within the capital a refined sense of prosperity flourished.

The Roman Empire.

Estimated population 1,200,000 people.

Amphi-theatre.

NOW, NOW, WHO'S UP FOR SUCH A HIGH RISK GAMBLE!

LISTEN UP AND BE AMAZED!

MATCH NUMBER NINE WILL BE GIDON VERSUS THE NEWCOMER, CESTVS.

THE ODDS FOR THE MATCH ARE 10:1!

...

IT SEEMS I'VE COMPLETELY LOST SIGHT OF HIM, THAT IDIOT!

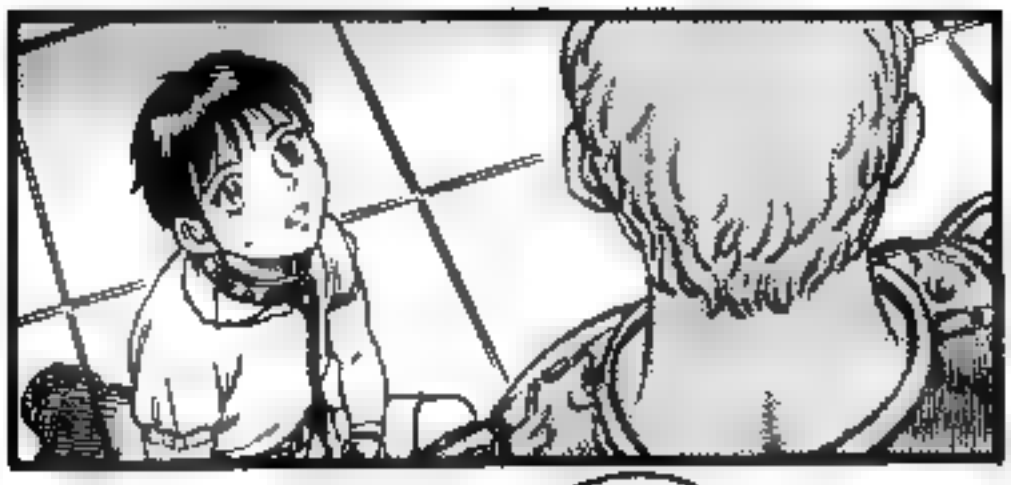
CESTVS, WHERE ARE YOU?!

HURRY UP AND TRACK HIM DOWN ZAFAR.

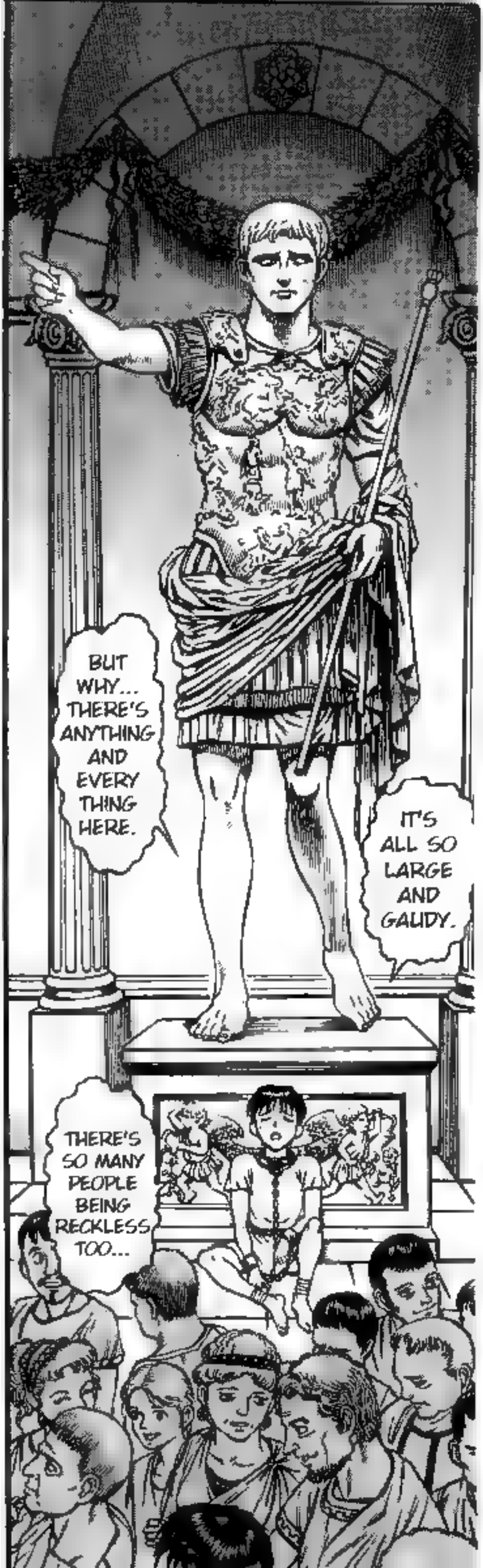
AH, GIVEN WHAT HE'S LIKE...

HOW'D THIS HAPPEN? STILL, I'VE A ROUGH GUESS AS TO WHERE HE'LL BE.






THAT'S AUGUSTUS.
OR AT LEAST, AN ENGRAVED STATUE OF OCTAVIANUS, THE FIRST ROMAN EMPEROR.


BUT WHY... THERE'S ANYTHING AND EVERY THING HERE.
IT'S ALL SO LARGE AND GAUDY.
THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE BEING RECKLESS TOO...

FIRST TIME IN ROME, RIGHT?

THIS IS YOUR...

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I CAME HERE FOR A MATCH BUT...

Y... YEAH.

IT'S AN AMAZING PLACE!

WITH THAT PHYSIQUE OF YOURS...

IT CAN'T BE, YOU'RE A SLAVE-BOXER?!

IT'S MY FIRST MATCH TODAY...

A MATCH BUT...

EH?

I'VE LOST TRACK OF MY COMPANIONS.

"""...

AROUND HERE THE RULES STATE THAT PARTICIPANTS NEED TO GATHER ON AN UNDERGROUND FLOOR...

THEY'RE SURE TO THINK THAT I'VE RUN AWAY!

AROUND NOW MY MASTER MUST BE BEING BLAMED...

EH... AH... FOR REAL?!

AND TAKE THE STAIRS FROM THERE.

FROM THAT SIDE ENTRANCE GO LEFT...

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

I'M CESTVS!

MM...

I'LL HEAD OFF RIGHT NOW!

YOU REALLY SAVED ME!

HE WAS DRESSED WELL, SEEMS HE'S THE CHILD OF A NOBLE..

I WONDER IF HE WAS AROUND THE SAME AGE AS ME?

I'M RUSKA!

!

GO OUT THERE AND WIN, CESTUS!

I'M SORRY MA...

AAH, THANK GOOD-NESS!

ST... ER...

HOW'S THAT KNEE OF YOURS DOING?

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WELL.

ZAFAR OF NUMIDIA.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

AS FOR YOU, SIR.

IT MUST BE A GREAT INCONVENIENCE, HAVING ONLY ONE EYE

THANKS TO THESE FETTERS IT'S NO LONGER A HINDRANCE

IT SEEMS OUR MUTUAL CONFUSION WAS NEEDLESS

HMPH IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL

DEMITORIUS OF ATTICA!

THAT'S...

XIA

GURGH

UHH

AAAA

INSOLENT FOOL!

TELL ME YOUR NAME, BRAT.

WHAT?!

IF HE'S A PUPIL THEN...

I AM THE BOXER ZAFAR'S PUPIL....

CESTVS!

IF ONLY YOU DIDN'T EXIST, THEN MASTER WOULD...

MASTER AND I WOULD...

ALL THESE THINGS...

WE'D...

IT'S FINE ALREADY...

SO THE BRAT WAS STILL ALIVE.

AAH...

I REMEMBER NOW, ZAFAR.

I'D SAY THEY'RE TOO MEAGRE TO BE TRAINED AS A BOXER.

IT WAS ONLY MY KNEE WHICH WAS BROKEN DEMITORIUS, MY SKILLS AREN'T GONE YET...

THE SUCCESSOR TO MY FIST!

THIS ONE IS TO BE...

CHAPTER III: THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL -/END


拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS
ヒストリア
CHAPTER IV: THE ROUND BATTLEFIELD

The Empress Dowager Julia Agrippina.

The Empress Octavia.

The Emperor Nero.

SPLAT

SPLAT

COUGH

OH, COULD IT BE THAT THE THRILL OF THE FIGHT IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU?

EH...

The new emperor's wife was a young girl, 14 years old.

THE CORONATION FESTIVAL IS AN IMPORTANT MATTER...

FOR NERO'S SAKE, WOULD YOU BEAR WITH IT, OCTAVIA?

MY APOLOGIES, MISTRESS.

BUT WHY, ISN'T THIS A HORRIFIC SPECTACLE?

THAT SUCH CRUEL ACTS ARE VIEWED AS ENTERTAINMENT IN ROME IS DEPLORABLE.

THE SHEER UGLINESS OF THESE FIGURES, SHAVING AWAY AT EACH OTHER'S LIFE...

Under-ground floor.

In the middle of this dark, dirty jail...

Lay the slave-boxer's waiting room.

WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY WITH THE OTHER KIDS?

DAMN IT. THAT BASTARD COMPLETELY HUMILIATED ME.

ズゥ

ズゥ

MIGUEL!

NICO AND NORRIS AND ERIC... SEEMS THEY... WERE MORTALLY WOUNDED...

AS I THOUGHT, ADULTS ARE STRONG...

HEHE... I... I WON! CESTVS ..

THESE WOUNDS ARE HORRIFIC THOUGH!

MY OPPONENT WAS ALSO A KID...

HEHE... HEH... WHAT... I WAS LUCKY...

CESTVS, GET OUT HERE!

SO THEN, IT'S ONLY US LEFT?!

THOSE THREE ARE DEAD?!

DON'T LOSE.. ABEL .. CINO.. CE..

STAND THERE.

BRING IT UP!

WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD

HUMF

HUMF

DAMN IT.

THEIR LOSSES, EH.

SHIT

THUMP

THUMP

STOP SHAKING

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

I'LL PERSEVERE THROUGH IT ALL!

AND NOW THE FIGHTERS ENTER...

FOR THE NINTH MATCH.

GIDON!

VERSUS HIS OPPONENT!

FROM ARIUS' TRAINING SCHOOL.

FROM VALEN'S TRAINING SCHOOL...

CESTVS!











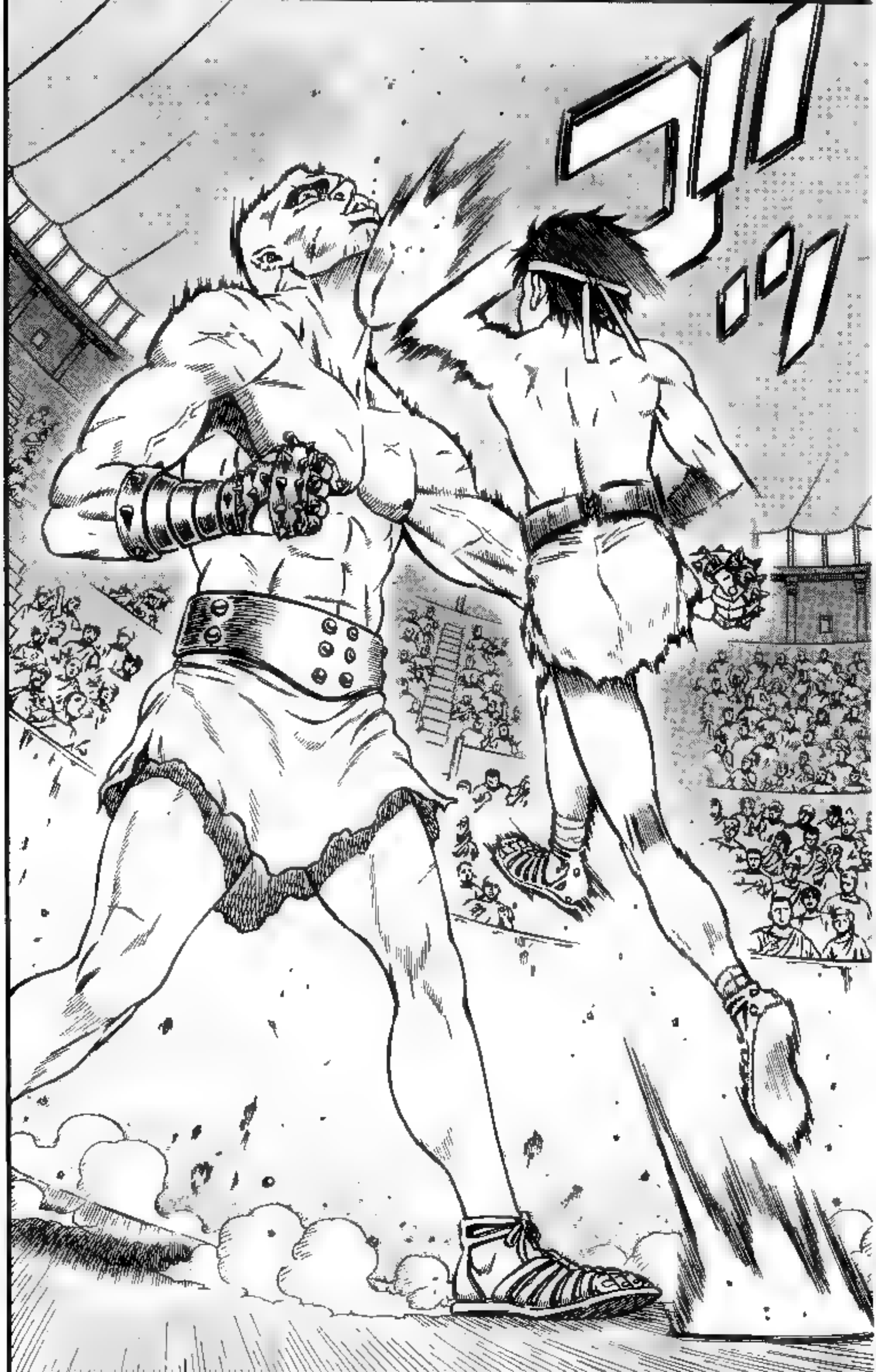
HE'S WATCHING!

THAT BASTARD!

OI BRAT, WHERE THE HELL YOU LOOKING?!

FIGHTERS TO THE CENTRE.

BEGIN!


ゴゴゴ





IT'S THE SAME!

NO WAY!

A BRAT LIKE THIS...

ZO!

ZAP

MASTER'S TECHNIQUES ARE FLAWLESS!

THAT WENT GREAT, HE DROPPED STRAIGHT AWAY!

W..

WAIT UP...

I CAN STILL GO ON!

クーッ..

?!

!

THE VICTOR IS CESTUS!

110ヶ 110ヶ 110ヶ 110ヶ

MY LORD...

...!

ふっ。

!

110ヶ

110ヶ

I WON ROCCO!

THIS IS MY FIRST STEP TO FREEDOM!

SO RADIANT!

THAT WAS SUCH A DAZZLING FIGHT.

CHAPTER IV: THE ROUND BATTLEFIELD - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER V: NERO THE BOY EMPEROR

YOU SHITHEAD!

WHAT A CRAP LOSS TO SOME KID!

YOU BASTARD WHERE'S YOUR WILLPOWER?

GO DIE!

FOR THAT EFFORT, YOU SHOULD DIE. YOU GOOD FOR NOTHING!

THAT'S A POOR LOSS!

WHAT A TERRIBLE SHOWING!

KILL HIM!

...

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

KILL!

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

The signal for death.

Born from Ancient Roman gladiator matches.

This was...

The decision over life or death was held by the irresponsible crowd.

IT WAS MERE CARELESS-NESS...

I'M NOT BROKEN!

In this situation the vanquished raises his left thumb.

Having no choice but to beg for pardon.

NEXT TIME I SWEAR I'LL SHOW A WIN!

CAESAR.

In this instance, if the sponsor grants pardon, the vanquished will be spared.

AVE CAESAR.

EH... AH...

YOU MUST DECIDE, EXCELLENCY!

RIGHT...

PLEASE GRANT ME PARDON!

...

PLEASE, PARDON HIM.

PARDON HIM...

ERR

WH... WH... WHAT SHOULD I DO...

KILL!

KILL!

KILL!

...



HA HA!!

YOU FOOL!

STOP CESTVS!

TO REQUEST THAT THE LIFE OF THE VANQUISHED BE SPARED, HOW ADMIRABLE!

AH...

GURGH...

URGH...

EXECUTE THEM NOW!

ALRIGHT, THAT MAN IS...

FOR THE LIKES OF MERE SLAVE-BOXERS...

TO TRY AND COMMAND THE EMPEROR OF ROME! IT ABSOLUTELY CANNOT BE TOLERATED!

BEHEAD THEM BOTH!

LORD NERO!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

...

MY LADY. WITH ALL DUE RES-PECT...

MOTHER...

...!

THE PEOPLE MUST BE SHOWN THE CAPIBILITY OF THEIR EMPEROR.

TODAY'S BOXING TOURNAMENT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE NEW EMPEROR'S CORONATION CEREMONY.

...

AT A TIME LIKE THIS CALM JUDGEMENT IS REQUIRED.

STOP IT, I'M NOT YET...

I'LL FIIIIGHT!

ti ti ti...

VERY WELL, I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY, DEMITORIUS.

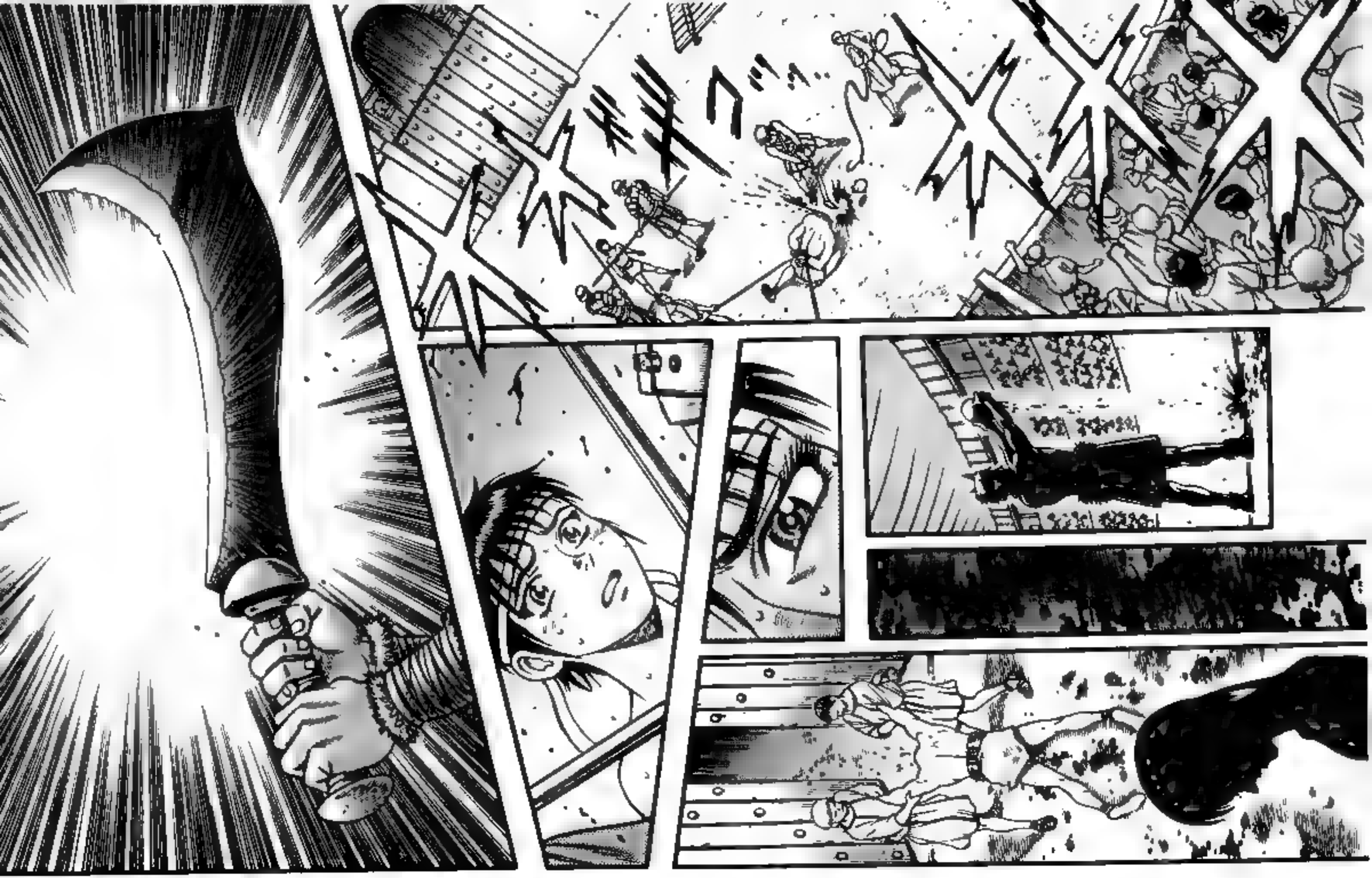
SO I SHOULD STEP BACK FOR NERO'S SAKE...

AH...

I'M OKAY OCTAVIA.

WE SHOULD DO AS THE ROMAN PEOPLE DESIRE.

WELL THEN.



HEE HEE

HOW CONCEITED OF YOU!

DID YOU WANT TO DIE?!

IT'S NOT THE PLACE FOR YOU TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE VANQUISHED!

THAT WAS ONLY YOUR FIRST WIN!

GOT IT?



GETTING INTO SUCH MATTERS WILL ONLY EVER SHORTEN YOUR LIFE.

UNTIL THE DAY YOU CAN REMOVE THESE.

IT'S LIKE...

I'M A MURDERER, ISN'T IT?

B... BUT... WITH EACH WIN...

MY OPPONENT... IS KILLED...

WHY, DESPITE MY ABSOLLITE WIN, WON'T IT ALL END!

DAMN IT! DAMN IT ALL!

ONE BY ONE ALL INEVITABLY DIE...

OTHERS...

WHY IS IS THAT I ALONE LIVE, WHILE...

うっ

うっ

CONDOLENCES AND SADNESS...

PAIN AND ANGER...

ADVANCE WITH EACH WIN, SURVIVE AND ESCAPE!

GRASP IT ALL WITH BOTH YOUR FISTS.

V

WITHOUT TURNING BACK, YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FRANTICALLY KEEP PUSHING ON!

THIS IS THE REALITY OF THE WORLD FOR SLAVE-BOXERS.

?

CESTVS OF VALENS' TRAINING SCHOOL!

HIS MAJESTY, THE EMPEROR, HAS CALLED FOR YOU!

COME WITH US!

YOU'D BE TWO YEARS MY JUNIOR THEN...!

SEEING YOU UP CLOSE YOU REALLY ARE PETITE AREN'T YOU...!

ARE YOU EVEN 15 YET?

THAT WAS AN AMAZING MATCH THOUGH!

A CHILD LIKE THIS IS THE EMPEROR OR ROME?!

IT WAS LIKE I WAS WATCHING THE LEGENDARY DAVID AND GOLIATH. IT REALLY GOT MY HEART RACING!

AS IT SEEMS YOU'VE A BAD LEG, YOU MAY SIT DOWN.

TELL ME WHO ARE YOU?

YES...

HE SEEMS VERY HAPPY.

HE...

LORD NERO THAT IS...

MIS-TRESS...

HE'S NO SENSE OF AWARENESS AS AN EMPEROR.

AH... THAT CHILD'S ALREADY HOPELESS.

HOW.

I'M SURE...

THERE WAS A SLAVE-BOXER WITH THAT NAME BEFORE.

ZAFAR...

I TEACH BOXING TO THIS BOY...

I AM ZAFAR OF NUMIDIA.

THE ONE YOU FOUGHT, RIGHT?

HE WAS...

OOH... DEMI-TORIUS!

IT WAS IN THE PRESENCE OF...

HIS MAJESTY, EMPEROR CLAUDIUS, THAT WE HAD A MATCH.

INDEED, IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS NOW.



AAH...

THAT WAS...

TRULY THE GREATEST MATCH.

IT WAS DURING THAT MATCH THAT HIS KNEE WAS BROKEN, WASN'T IT?

TCH... WHAT DOES MASTER HAVE THAT LOOK FOR?!

...

...

CREAK

FOR THE FINAL MATCH...

I HAVE MADE MY OWN PREPARATIONS TO CELEBRATE YOUR ENTHRONE-MENT.

CAESAR.

HEH...

WELL, THIS SOUNDS FUN.

PLEASE RECIEVE THIS GIFT...

OF MY OWN HUMBLE EFFORTS.

YOU HAVE SEARCHED FOR KNOWLEDGE IN VARIOUS ARTS LORD NERO.

LASTLY, WE HAVE A SPECIAL MATCH!

HERE COME THE FIGHTERS!

THE VAGRANT BEAST, KENDALL!

WITH A STRONG FIST, FROM THE RUINED LAND OF CARTHAGE...

EH?!

FROM THE STANDS?!

KYA!

VERSUS HIS OPPO-NENT!

FROM THE EMPEROR'S BARE-HANDED FIGHTING CORPS!

THE TOP TRAINEE!

ROME'S FIGHTING CHILD...

GOLDEN RUSKA!

IT'S HIM!

AH!

CAESAR.

WHILE BOXING IS NO MORE THAN A VULGAR CONTEST.

KYAA, RUSKAAAA!

THAT THERE IS MY OWN SON...

IT IS EVIDENCE OF LIFE. IF YOU WILL WATCH THE FOLLOWING, I HOPE YOU SHALL SEE THAT TOO.

RUSKA DEMITORIUS.

WHAT THE?!

HE'S DEMITORIOUS' SON?!

CHAPTER V: NERO THE BOY EMPEROR - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER VI: RUSKA THE FIGHTING CHILD

FIGHTERS TO THE CENTRE!

SWOOSH

SWOOSH

SWOOSH

SUUUUU...

HAAAA...

フ≠フ≠

フ≠フ≠...

SUCH INTENSITY.

EVEN AT THIS DISTANCE, YOU CAN SEE THEY HAVE GREAT SPIRIT AND STRENGTH.

YOU'LL NEED A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO TAKE DOWN LANKY GUYS LIKE THAT!

IT'S THE BOY YOU SHOULD BE SURPRISED BY THOUGH.

COULD IT BE THAT HE'S USED TO THIS?!

HIS OPPONENT HAS MANY YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE, YET HE SHOWS NEITHER FEAR NOR EXCITEMENT.

BEGIN!

SWISH

!!

WHAT THE...?

HE THREW ME!

WHAT AN ADVANCED TECHNIQUE.

HE DEFTLY USED HIS WRIST AS WELL AS HIS OPPONENT'S OWN STRENGTH TO SEND HIM FLYING.

HE DID THAT SO EASILY...

Lt..

A LITTLE...

LESS COMPOSED NOW?

GUH!

THIS FIGHT IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TO BOXING, ISN'T IT?!

FAMED BEAST OF CARTHAGE.

HOW RUDE OF ME.

SHALL WE BECOME BETTER AQUAINTED WITH THE BLOWS OF OUR FISTS?

I COMMEND YOUR EXPLOITS IN WAR...



SWOOSH

!?

HE TOOK HIM DOWN WITH AN OPEN HAND SLAP?!

HE STRUCK HIM PRECISELY IN THE JAW.

THE FINAL BLOW WAS WITH THE HEEL OF HIS HAND!

NO.

THE FLESH OF ONE'S PALM CAN CAUSE MORE HARM THAN THE KNUCKLES, THERE'S ALSO LOWER RISK WITH IT.

WHAT LOOKED LIKE A SUPERFICIAL BLOW WAS ACTUALLY QUITE SEVERE.

OH GOOD, A KNOCKOUT LIKE THAT WOULD BE DULL.

...!

HURRY AND STAND CARTHA-GINIAN DOG!

TRY AND...

ORDER ME AROUND WOULD YOU?!

EEEK!

I WONDER IF IT'S THE GHOSTS OF HIS ANCESTORS TAKING HOLD.

OOH... HOW HORRIFY-ING...

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.

WILL... WILL HE REALLY WIN?!

I'LL TAKE HIM DOWN NOW...

IT'S TIME...

AFTER ALL, YOUR SON'S ATTACK WASN'T VERY EFFECTIVE, WAS IT?!

ARE THEY DEFENCE-LESS?!

!?

CARTHAGE'S 300 YEAR GRUDGE...

I'LL SMASH IT RIGHT INTO THE BASTARD!

I'M SUPE-RIOR...

TO THIS SHITTY KID!

DEATH TO ROME!

GRAB

!!

TWIST

RIP

RIP

RIP

LONELY ISN'T IT, THIS WAY OF FIGHTING.

IF YOU CAN'T LAND A HIT, THEN YOUR SMITING BLOWS ARE NO THREAT.

GUARGH!

POF

POF

ARGGH!

GAH

URGH

ARGH

HIS...
HIS...

HIS ARM BROKE!

MARS' FAVOURITE CHILD!

WAY TO GO, RUSKAR!

SAY...

DEMITORIUS, WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED IN THAT MATCH?!

PANKRATION!

IT WAS A SYNTHESIS OF FIGHTING SKILLS...

BUILT AROUND A GROUP OF SKILLS, IT IS A BARE-HANDED MARTIAL ART.

IT ORIGINATED FROM OUR HOMELAND OF GREECE.

IT IS THE ULTIMATE BARE HANDED MARTIAL ART, AND PREPARES ONE FOR A THOUSAND STYLES OF COMBAT.

WHAT'S MORE, WE BROUGHT IN A NUMBER OF SKILLS FROM COUNTRIES FAR TO THE EAST.

YET UNARMED COMBAT HAS AN INFINTE NUMBER OF FORMS OF FIGHTING...

IT IS NO DOUBT AN ART.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND...

YOUR MA-JESTY?

PUGILISM...

IS MERELY THE FOUNDATIONAL SYSTEM OF HAND TO HAND COMBAT.

IN OTHER WORDS... TO STRIKE...

TO CAST AWAY...

TO HOLD...

TO IMMOBI-LIZE...

IT CAN ALL BE DONE AT WILL!

KENDALL OF CARTHAGE.

SO LONG.

AS YOU SAW...

THAT BOY HAS INHERITED MY FIGHTING SKILLS.

ZAFAR...

RUSKA IS 16 YEARS OLD YOU KNOW.

WHAT IS IT..

THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY?

History holds that the Roman's considered their strongest victors to be as gods.

Indeed, victorious fighters were heroes to the crowd.

KYAAAA, RUSKAAAA!

...

Beautiful fighters...

Actors and chariot racers. These were the stars for Roman women.

OVER HERE, LOOK THIS WAY!

RUSKA!

SAY, WHEN WILL YOUR NEXT MATCH BE?!

IT WOULD BE GOOD TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE DEAD YET...

!

WHEN DID YOU TWO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER?

YEAH...

THANKS... FOR THIS MORNING...

SURPRISED TO SEE ME LEAVING A MATCH?!

HEY, CESTVS.

...

I SAW YOUR MATCH...

SO WE BOTH HAD EASY VICTORIES EH!

CHAPTER VI: RUSKA THE FIGHTING CHILD - END

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS

セスタス

CHAPTER VII: THE TRIO'S CHANCE MEEETING

Palatine Hill.

Imperial Palace.

It was on this hill that the nation of Rome was founded. And, it was now where the Emperor had established residence.

THIS MASSIVE BUILDING IS ALL JUST THE EMPEROR'S!?

WHAT ARE YOU...

RUSKA!

I SEE. SO YOU...

WERE ALSO SUMMONED BY THE EMPEROR?

CESTVS!

ARE YOU HERE OFTEN?

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY FAMILIAR WITH THIS PLACE...

YOU COULD LIVE OUT HERE!

IT'S SO SPAC-IOUS.

EH BUT...

I'LL WAIT HERE.

SEE YOU IN A BIT.

CESTVS.

NO, JUST ONCE IN A WHILE.

ONLY WHEN MY FATHER IS HERE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

LET'S GO, CESTVS.

RIGHT.

ミャキ…!

THE SUMMONS WERE FOR YOU.

DON'T GO CAUSING A MESS NOW.

WELL... THE RULES STATE...

AH.

CAN'T YOU TAKE OFF THOSE SHACKLES FOR A BIT?

THAT CLANKING IS RATHER IRRITATING.

WHAT'S THAT I CAN HEAR?

IT'S COMING FROM THE COURT-YARD

ミャラ…

...

IT'S MUSIC.

MU...

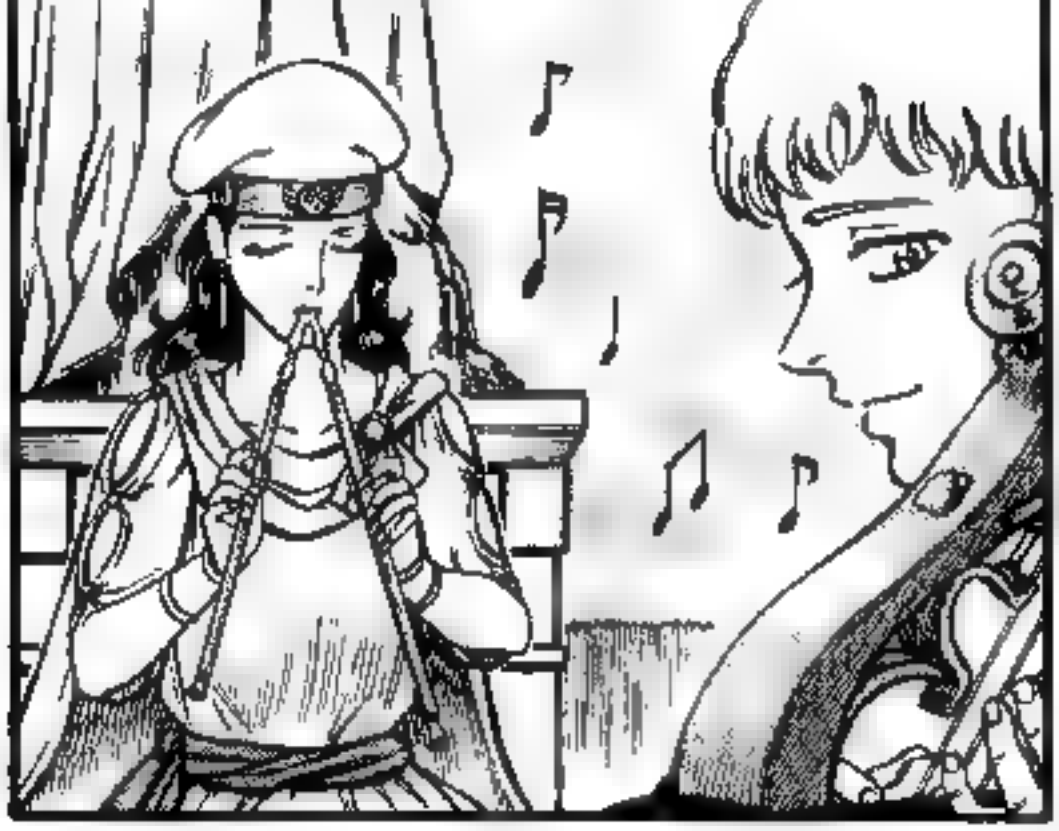
SIC?

HELLO THERE...

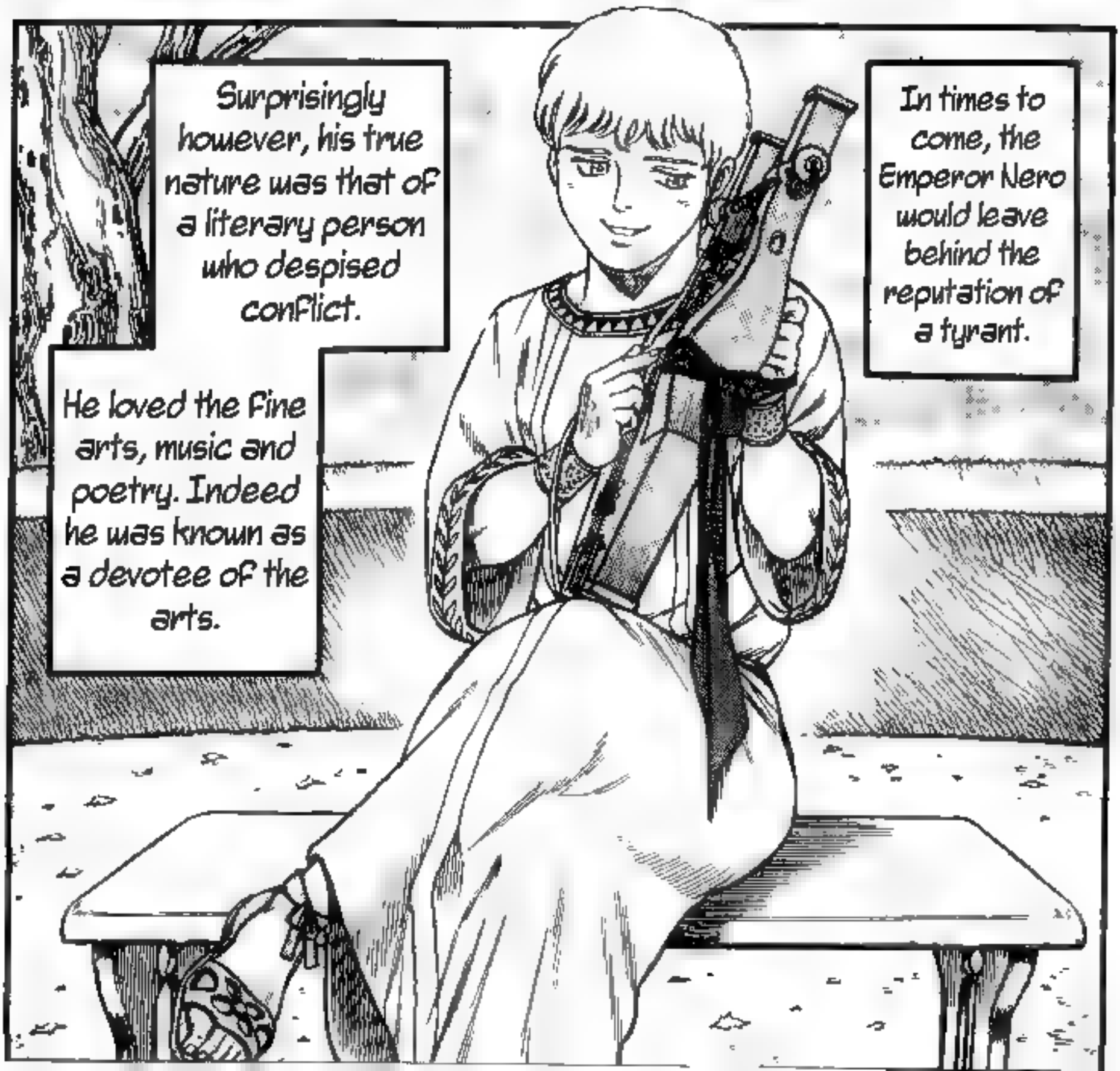
I'M GLAD THAT BOTH OF YOU CAME.

COULD I ASK THAT YOU WAIT A MOMENT.

I'D LIKE TO PRACTICE A LITTLE MORE.




WELL THEN, LET US START ONCE MORE FROM THE BEGINNING.


Surprisingly however, his true nature was that of a literary person who despised conflict.
He loved the fine arts, music and poetry. Indeed he was known as a devotee of the art's.
In times to come, the Emperor Nero would leave behind the reputation of a tyrant.

Above all else, Nero adored...

Singing alongside the performance of a harp.

The Emperor sang.

EEH, SO HE SAID THIS WAS CALLED MUSIC...

IT'S ENTRANCING.

THE SOUNDS I'M HEARING NOW ARE SO LIGHT AND TENDER.

THE SOUNDS YOU HEAR IN THE ARENA ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

THIS FEELING...

IT'S NICE.

THE MUSIC IS THAWING MY BODY.

TRY A LITTLE HIGHER YOUR MAJESTY.

IT'S THE RESULTS OF YOUR PRACTICE.

あぁ ～～～～

I'M HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES TODAY...

EH...?!

WHAT'S WRONG, CESTVS?

NOTHING LIKE THAT.

ODD ISN'T IT...

ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL?

HOW EMBARRASSING... WHY'D THIS HAPPEN.

...

AH? HAHA...

ジャラ..

FOR YOU TO BE MOVED...

TO THAT DEGREE...

ぎゅうう

THAT SORT OF RESPONSE IS FANTASTIC!

FROM MY SONG... FROM MY PERFOR-MANCE!

...

I GET TIRED OF LISTENING ONLY TO EMPTY COMPLIMENTS.

NO YOUR LANGUAGE IS FINE!

I CAN'T EXPRESS THIS WELL BUT... THAT WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL...

THE AUDIENCE WILL ALREADY BE PRESENT.

IT'S TIME, YOUR MAJESTY.

CAN'T WE BE LEFT ALONE, ROXXANE?

TELL THEM I'M RETIRING FOR TODAY!

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LOVELY TUNE?

WELL THEN, HOW'S THIS?

MY MUSIC IS MY PRIDE, SO I'LL PLAY AS MUCH AS YOU WANT! HAHAHA!

MY LADY...

フワリ

WHY IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS WHEN IT COMES TO THAT CHILD?!

THE COUNCILLERS HAVE ALREADY LONG BEEN ASSEMBLED AND YET...

イラ イラ イラ

WELL, HE'S WITH TWO FIGHTERS IN THE COURTYARD. THEY'RE AMUSING THEMSELVES WITH NERO'S MUSIC.

HE ORDERED THAT TODAY'S AUDIENCE BE CANCELLED.

WHAT EXACTLY IS NERO DOING?!

ARCADIA ROXXANE!

ﾌﾜｯ

ﾌﾜｯ

ハラ

ハラ

WHAT SHALL WE DO!?

...!

MIS-TRESS...

WHY MUST YOU FIGHT?!

WHY MUST TWO SO YOUNG PLACE THEMSELVES IN SUCH DANGEROUS SITUATION?!

I CALLED YOU HEAR FOR A REASON...

YOU ARE AFTER ALL BOTH THE SAME AGE, AND I WANTED TO HEAR SOMETHING FROM YOU.

YET I CAN'T DEPEND ON ANYTHING BUT MY FISTS.

I DON'T ENJOY FIGHTING...

THERE'S ALSO NO OTHER PATHS TO FREEDOM FOR ME.

MY FATHER HAD IT THAT I BECOME AN IMPERIAL SOLDIER.

SO I FIGHT IN THE ARENA.

I AIM TO HONE MY SKILLS AND ONE DAY PROTECT YOU, OUR MAJESTY.

EH?!

DON'T YOU SEE THOUGH, SUCH A THING MAY NOT EXIST ANYWHERE.

I SEE, FREEDOM EH...

キュッ

キュッ

THIS DELICATE BOY IS...

MY LORD...

IS SOMEONE LIKE THIS REALLY NOT HAPPY?

EVEN TALENT IS THE SAME...

INDEED, THAT WHICH WE WISH FOR IS RARELY GRANTED.

YOU CAN'T SIMPLY CHOOSE YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD OF YOUR OWN VOLITION.

YOUR ERA...

YOUR LOCATION... YOUR PARENTS...

ISN'T IT THAT, FROM BIRTH, OUR LIVES ARE ALREADY DECIDED BY THE WHIMS OF THE GODS...

THE MAN WHO STANDS ALONE AT THE SUMMIT OF THE WORLD AND YET...

LISTEN TO THIS!

AH, THAT'S IT

HE'S THE EMPEROR OF ROME.

YOU MAY SEEM TO HAVE TO WATCH A VERY INTERESTING TRIAL

IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE JUST RELAXING HERE, ZAFARA?

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW (SOME ALONE)

HMPH

WAIT! WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

IT COULDN'T BE.

ISN'T AN ARENA!

PLEASE MOTHER, THIS PLACE...

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE, YOU SHALL BOTH BE REWARDED.

I, THE EMPRESS DOWAGER, COMMAND YOU TO HAVE A MATCH.

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THIS IS... THIS IS JUST LIKE...

CAN'T YOU HEAR ME, DOMITIUS?

DON'T QUESTION WHETHER THIS IS THE RIGHT OR THE WRONG PLACE FOR IT!

FIGHTERS ARE MERE GOODS FOR BATTLE!

ALL THEY NEED DO IS FIGHT, THEIR LIVES HAVE NO MEANING NOR VALUE!

ORDER THESE TWO TO FIGHT HERE, QUICKLY!

WE'VE NO CHOICE CESTVS.

COME AT ME WITH NO HESITATION.

AS YOU COMMAND.

!!!

RO...!

CESTVS.

WE'VE NO CHOICE...

IT ALWAYS ENDS UP LIKE THIS.

HURRY UP AND REMOVE THAT BOY'S SHACKLES!

GUARDS!

MY FEELINGS IN THIS ARE NEVER CONSIDERED.

ONCE REMOVED, IT'LL BE TIME TO FIGHT.

PLEASE MAKE USE OF THIS.

ﾌｫ..

ﾌｫ..

ｱｱｱ..

COULD I HAVE SOME CLOTH TO COVER MY FISTS WITH.

AH... SORRY BUT...

YET TO HAVE SUCH A CHILD BOUND TO THE CONFLICTS OF THIS WORLD...

HE'S A SINCERE BOY, TO CRY WHILE LISTENING TO MUSIC...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I PITY HIM.

YANK

YANK

CESTVS!

FATHER!

MASTER!

...!

IT WAS ON MY ORDERS. DO YOU DISSAPROVE?

YOU IDIOT, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO?!

BUT MA-STER.

YOU SHOULD LOOK AROUND.

HOW AM I MEANT TO LOOK AFTER HIM IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO MASTER..?

SHIT!

LEAVE BUT A FRAGMENT.

SIMPLY GO FOR THE KILL, NO PLAYING AROUND.

FATHER.

IT SEEMS YOU DON'T YET KNOW THE MEANING OF THE THRONE.

...

WHAT IS THE SOLE MEANING IN LIFE FOR AN EMPEROR, DOMITIUS?

DO YOU FEEL SYMPATHY FOR THAT YOUNGSTER, ROXXANE?

WHAT REASON WOULD I HAVE TO STOP THIS?

COMMAN-DER!

SHOULDN'T WE STOP THIS?!

IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR HIM TO GO AGAINST THIS SORT OF FIGHTING STYLE.

RIGHT.

LET'S BEGIN!

THIS IS A TRULY TERRIBLE OPPONENT FOR HIM!

CHAPTER VII: THE TRIO'S CHANCE MEEETING - END

THE EMPEROR IS SOVEREIGN, BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN I SHOULD DO?!

WHY WON'T YOU TWO STOP?! ROXXANE!

I'VE NOT THE AUTHORITY!

SILENCE IS THE SIMPLEST METHOD OF EVASION!

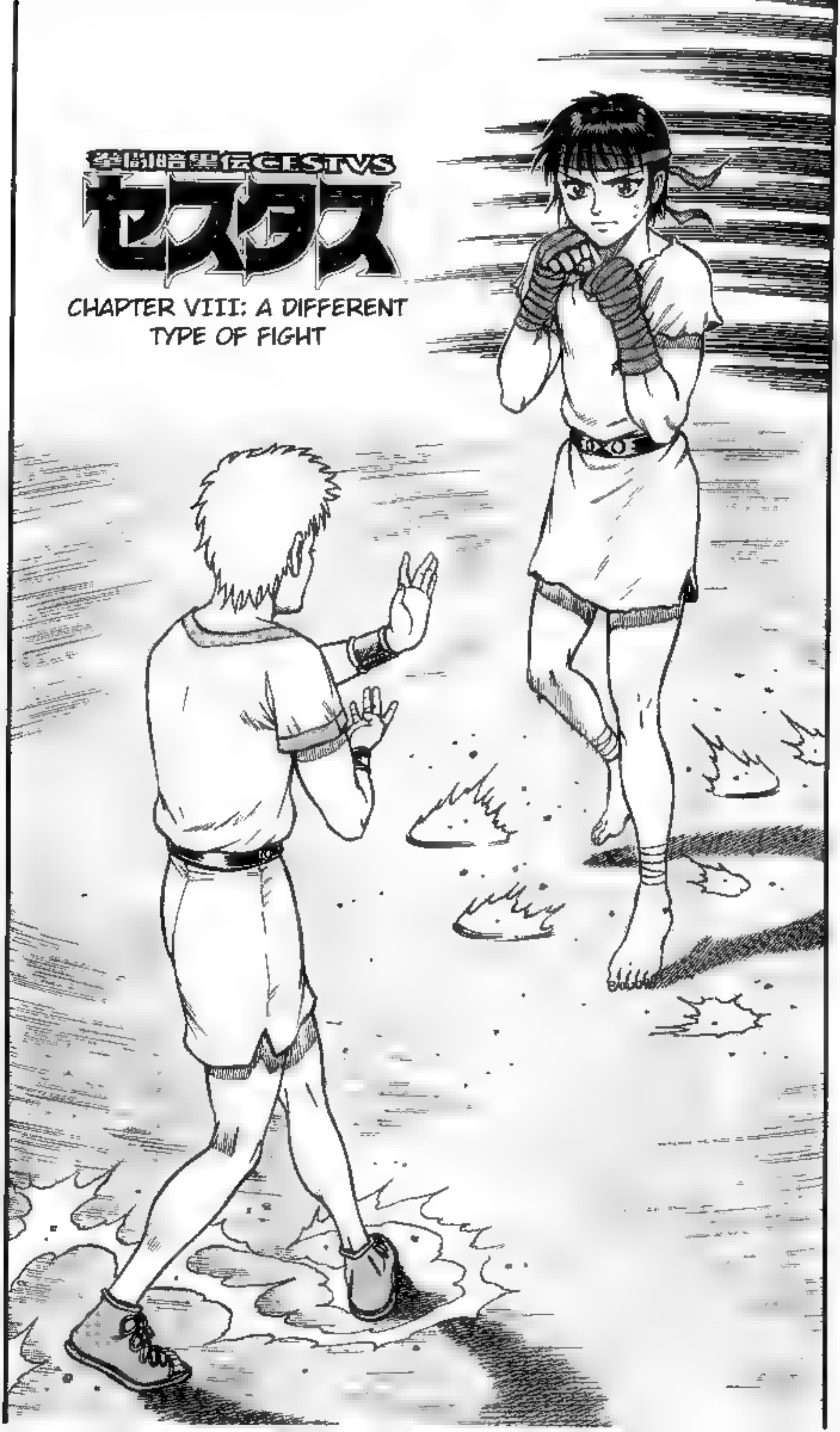
USE YOUR LEGS!

GET MOVING CESTUS!

IF YOU TRY TO GRAPPLE WITH HIM, IT'LL BE THE END OF YOU!

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS セスタス

CHAPTER VIII: A DIFFERENT TYPE OF FIGHT



THE ALMIGHTY FIGHTING CHILD.

THE PRODIGY, RUSKA.

THIS IS THE SON OF DEMITORIUS, THE ONE WHO BROKE MASTER'S KNEE!

WIN OR LOSE, WE'LL DO SO AT FULL SPEED!

STILL, I HAVE FAITH IN THE SPEED OF MY FISTS.

YOUR STRIKES ARE SWIFT AND TRULY DIVERSE.

THE REVOLUTIONARY CESTVS.

HOWEVER, BLOCKING THEM WILL BE AN EASY MATTER.

SWISH

DAMN IT... HE SEEMS TO BE DEFLECTING MY STRIKES!

IF I STEP IN, WOULD HE STRIKE FROM HIS CHEST?

AT THIS RANGE I CAN'T BREAK THROUGH!

I'LL PLAY ALONG.

AIMING FOR MY SIDE ARE YOU?

クス…

WHAT TO DO?

DON'T GET FLUSTERED CESTVS!

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!

WHERE AND HOW YOU'RE LOOKING TO STRIKE EACH TIME...

IT'S SO OBVIOUS.


HUFF
DO YOU HAVE NO BLIND SPOTS?!
AN ELBOW BLOW THEN A KNEE STRIKE!


!!!!!!
YOU HAVE...
HAH... AH...
LET... GO.
HUMF
HUMF
HUMF
FAR TOO KIND A NATURE.
EH?!
I'M GOING TO LET GO.
WATCH OUT FOR... YOUR HEAD...


GAAAAAAAARGH!

GET OUT OF THERE, CESTVS!

THIS IS BAD!

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO BREATHE PROPERLY NOW.

WITH THAT BLOW, HE TOOK THE WEIGHT OF TWO PEOPLE TO HIS LUNGS.

GUARGH!

I WAS EASY ON YOU, CESTVS.

CO... UGH!

CHOKE!

COUGH!

KAH...

THERE WAS NO OTHER REASON FOR MY WIN.

ALL YOU CAN DO IS THROW PUNCHES...

YOU'LL JUST SLEEP FOR A BIT.

IT'S OKAY, YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AFRAID...

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE IN LIFE FOR THE EMPEROR OF ROME?!

I'LL ASK YOU ONCE MORE, DOMITIUS...

NOT...

A...

CHANCE.

THE MATCH HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED!

PLEASE, GIVE IN!

NOW NOW, WHAT MIGHT YOU BE PLANNING TO DO?

EH?!

ELSE I'LL CRUSH YOUR LEFT EYE TOO!

STEP ASIDE!

WHAT DOES A BASTARD LIKE YOU THINK HE CAN ACCOMPLISH AT PRESENT?

OH...

ANSWER ME NOW, NERO!

PLEASE JUST...

STOOOP...

!!!T!

STOOOP!

NOT THE ONE WHO'S GIVEN THE THRONE...

NOR AM I...

A PUPPET OF MY MOTHER!

RUKIUS DOMITIUS!

I AM...

NOT THE EMPEROR NERO...

I DON'T WANT TO BE ANYTHING!

MY DEAREST WISH WOULD HAVE COME TRUE...

THAT AT LAST...

YET WHY... WHY WOULD YOU...

I THOUGHT AT LAST I'D MADE IT...

DO YOU KNOW THE HARDSHIPS I'VE FACED TO GET TO HERE...

ああああ...

MOTHER... PLEASE...

AH... EH... WELL...

PLEASE WAIT MOTHER!

WAIT!

YOU'RE A FOOL WHO'S LOST HIS FANGS.

YOU'VE THE MANNER OF AN OVER-DOTING PARENT.

LADY OCT-AVIA...

I DON'T WANT TO SEE CONFLICT, YET...

WAAH!

WHY CAN'T EVERY-ONE GET ALONG?

GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!

I WAS MISTAKEN ABOUT YOU, ZAFAR.

I'M SORRY...

SLEEP WELL, CESTVS.

TH..




(a)
'A, ALIGHY
I'M
'A, ALIGHY


I
WILL
USE ALL
OF MY
STRENGTH
TO THE
UTMOST
AND
BECOME A
FANTASTIC
(a)
DON'T
FORSAKE
ME!
(a)


MOTHER
PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME

FROM HERE ON THE TWO OF US, MOTHER AND CHILD, SHALL GOVERN THIS WORLD TOGETHER...

I WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE ABANDON YOU...

AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND, ALL IS WELL.

RIGHT?

I AM DISSAPOINTED IN YOU, RUSKA.

KAH.

WHY DIDN'T YOU USE YOUR JOINT LOCK AND CRIPPLE HIM?!

WHAT SORT OF HALF-HEARTED CHOKE HOLD WAS THAT?!

YOU DESPOT.

SOMEDAY, I'LL KILL YOU...

IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO DO SOME SELF REFLEC-TION, NOVICE!

AND YET YOU'RE MY SON!

YOU ARE A FOOL!

ビッ

NOTH-
ING...

NOT
ONE
THING...

I
COULDN'T
DO A
THING!!

THIS LOSS IS SO FRUSTRATING!

HE LAUGHED WHILE WARDING OFF MY ATTACKS...

DESPITE ME GOING ALL OUT...

RUSKA WAS LAUGHING...

THAT CHILD IS A WELL POLISHED PRODIGY.

IT'S THE HEART OF HAND TO HAND COMBAT.

YOUR OPPONENT WAS SKILLED IN SUPRE-SSION.

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PLACE YOUR FIST TO YOUR CHEST.

CESTVS.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOUR SPIRIT WAS CRUSHED?

IN AN INSTANCE THE BODY WILL EXERT ITSELF TO ENSURE SURVIVAL.

IT IS A ROAR OF FORTITUDE!

THAT IS THE PULSE OF BATTLE!

CAN YOU HEAR THAT?

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

CESTVS, YOU'VE LOST NOTHING...

AND YOU'VE HAD AN IMPORTANT EXPERIENCE...

SO DON'T BE DEJECTED!

YOU HAVE TOMORROW WAITING FOR YOU!

YES, MASTER!

I SHALL BECOME MUCH STRONGER YET!

FU...

CHAPTER VIII: A DIFFERENT TYPE OF FIGHT - END

拳闘は最古の格闘技である

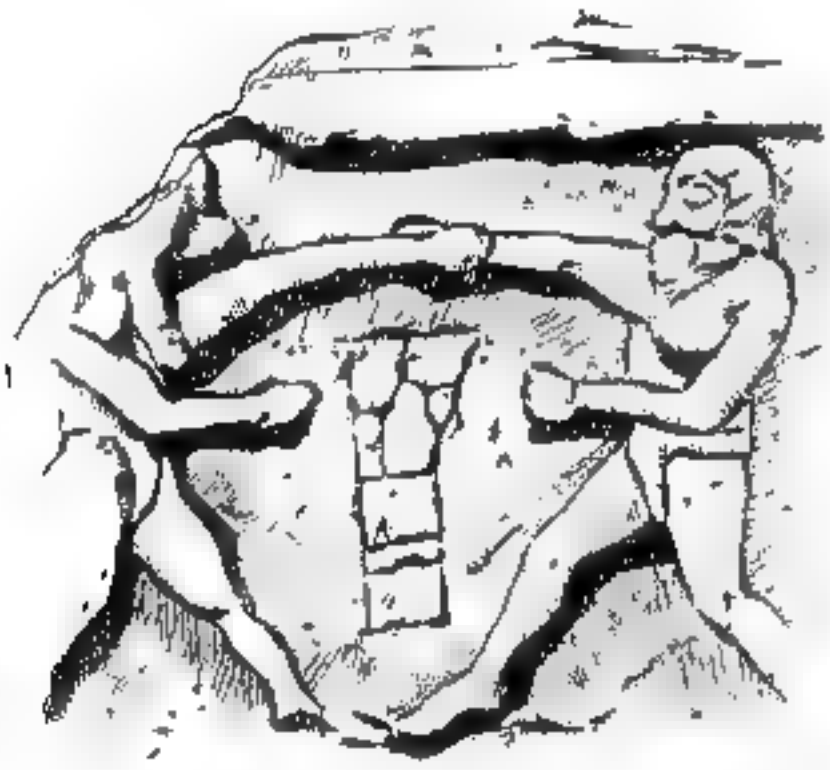
絵や文字の記録手段が、生まれたばかりの古代文明の遺跡からそれを裏付ける証拠が出土しており、言葉というコミュニケーション手段が生まれる有史以前から、恐らく人類は拳による闘争を行っていたはずなのである。

つまり、人類の歴史はそのまま拳闘の歴史とも言い換えられるのだ。

その長い拳闘史の中で、競技が最も残虐化した時代が「セスタス」という重グローブが使用された古代ローマ時代であった。

血塗られたボクシングの暗黒時代

本題『拳闘暗黒伝　セスタス』はこの史実に由来するものである。



▲メソポタミア文明の陶製レリーフ（BC 3500年頃）



▲ギリシアの壺絵（BC 525年頃）

古代拳闘について

古代ギリシアでは拳闘競技はpugilism（プジリズム）と呼ばれていた。古代オリンピック競技でも紀元前688年開催の第23回大会から公式競技として試合が行われている。

ルールは拳による打撃を原則とし、指による眼突きや、金的打ち、取っ組み合うことなどが禁止されていた。

闘士のどちらかが立てなくなるか、降参するかまで、時間無制限で試合は続けられた。試合を裁くのは杖を手にしたレフェリーである。体重制、ラウンド制などは存在しなかったが、ギリシアでは少年と大人の競技は区別されていた。なお、実際には拳闘士たちは全裸で試合を行っていたようである。



◀拳闘士の青銅像

（アテネのアポロニオス作 BC100年頃）

鍛え上げた肉体、グローブ、顔の傷に至るまで写実的に造型されている。

古代グローブについて

ギリシアの拳闘士はヒマンテスと呼ばれる牛革製の紐を拳に巻いた。今日ボクサーがグローブの下に着用するバンテージのような物である。

練習用には羊毛を裏地に詰めた軟質グローブもありサンドバッグもすでに発明され、練習に使われていた。

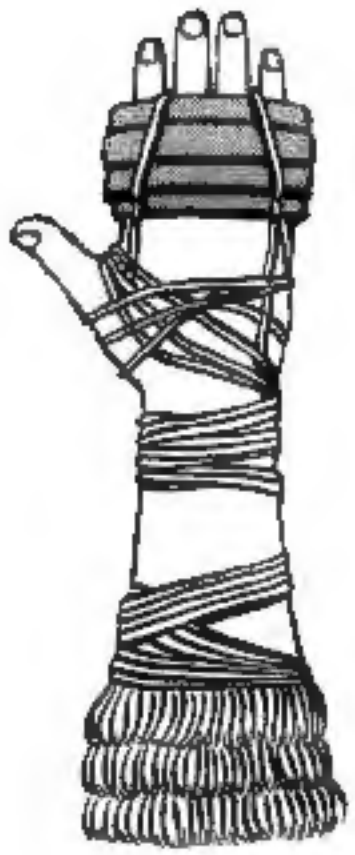
やがて厚手の皮バンドをナックルパートに巻き、打撃効果を高めた硬質グローブ(通称ミュルメクス)が発明されて、試合に使われるようになる。

ローマ時代になると、皮バンドに鉄のスパイクや、鉛を仕込んだ重グローブ セスタス(ローマ読みではカエストス)が発明される。殺傷力はさらに強力になり、死者や、障害を残す者も少なくなかった。

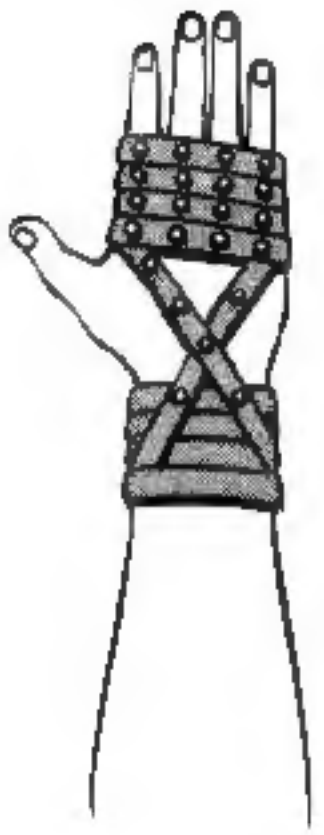
ローマの享楽主義と、プロ興業化によって拳闘競技は残虐で猟奇的な見せ物へと変質してゆくのである。



ヒマンテス



ミュルメクス



セスタス

時代が進みキリスト教がローマに定着すると、拳闘試合の残酷性が信者たちから非難されるようになり、紀元404年、西ローマ帝国、ホノリウス帝の時代になると拳闘競技は遂に全面禁止され、古代拳闘の時代は終わりを告げる。

後に英国で近代ボクシングが開花する時代まで、拳闘競技は長きに渡り、闇に埋もれ、スポーツとして脚光を浴びることはなかったのである。

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